

## ABSTRACT

Methods and apparatus are disclosed for collecting statistics from elements at multiple collection rates which may be used, inter alia, in a computer or communications system, such as a computer or communications device, packet switching system, router, other device, or component thereof. Multiple polling tasks running at different polling intervals are used to collect data from various sets of elements. Elements are assigned to a polling task or group based on a required minimum collection rate for the element, which may correspond to a data acquisition or overflow rate for the element. In one implementation, this data corresponds to traffic and other characteristics of a connection, such as a virtual connection across a packet switching system or device.